

Serial No. 09/522,609  
Docket No. 64317/99

4

### REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper because it narrows the issues on appeal and does not require further search by the Examiner.

Claims 2 and 8 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 2 and 8 have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 2 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes that claims 2 and 8 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and are, therefore, in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 8, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Serial No. 09/522,609  
Docket No. 64317/99

5

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1/12/03



Phillip E. Miller  
Registration No. 46,060

**McGinn & Gibb, PLLC**  
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200  
Vienna, VA 22182-3817  
(703) 761-4100  
Customer No. 21254

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment was filed by facsimile with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Examiner George Wang, Group Art Unit # 2871 at fax number (703) 746-7700 this 12 day of January, 2004.

or  
703-872-9306



Phillip E. Miller  
Reg. No. 46,060